

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1-36 are pending, in which claims 1-5, 7-14, 16-23, 25-32, and 34-36 are currently amended. Care was exercised to avoid the introduction of new matter.

The Office Action mailed December 1, 2004 rejected claims 1-36 as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103 based on *Baras et al.* ("Fast Asymmetric Internet Over Wireless Satellite-Terrestrial Networks," MILCOM 97 Proceedings, Nov. 3-5, 1997, Annual Military Communications Conference) in view of *Takagi et al.* (EP 0 903 905 A).

Per the Examiner's suggestion, Applicants have amended the Specification and Drawings to address the drawing objections as well as to correct discovered informalities.

In the interest of expediting prosecution, Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 10, 19 and 28. As amended, independent claim 1 recites "a data compression module configured to apply **compression on individual ones of the connections or the backbone connection.**" Claims 10 and 28 now recite "applying data **compression on individual ones of the connections or the backbone connection.**" Independent claim 19 recites "means for applying data **compression on individual ones of the connections or the backbone connection.**"

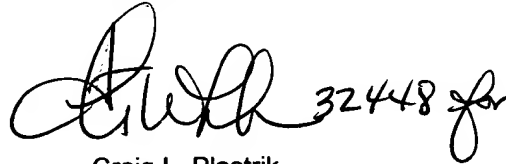
By contrast, *Baras et al.* discloses a hybrid terminal that merges a bi-directional terrestrial link using a modem and a receive-only satellite link (see e.g., page 373, column 1, 3rd paragraph). *Baras et al.* makes no mention of any type of data compression, much less compression in the manner claimed. Additionally, the secondary reference of *Takagi et al.* is similarly deficient in this respect. At best, *Takagi et al.* discloses, per FIG. 4 and accompanying text, use of a compressed TCP/IP header. There is no capability to "apply **compression on individual ones of the connections or the backbone connection,**" as positively claimed.

Even assuming the two references were properly combined based on some teaching or suggestion in the references, and assuming the modifications proposed in the Office Action were justified by additional teachings or suggestions found in the references, even the combination does not render the claimed invention obvious. Specifically, none the references taken alone, or in combination, teaches or suggests "applying data **compression on individual ones of the connections or the backbone**

connection." Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the obviousness rejection, and urge the indication that the pending claims are allowable.

Therefore, the present application, as amended, overcomes the objections and rejections of record and is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested. If any unresolved issues remain, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney at (301) 428-7172 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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AMENDMENT TO THE DRAWINGS

Please replace FIGs. 5, 8, 10, 17 and 18 with the attached Replacement Sheets to correct discovered informalities, and to incorporate the Examiner's helpful suggestions.